

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04955 170753Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 /043 W
-----091959 170800Z /13

R 170442Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8944
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 4955

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, BBSR, BEXP, SA
SUBJ: JIDDA PORT SITREP

1. EMBASSY HAS OBSERVED SLOW BUILDUP IN PORT ACTIVITY
AT JIDDA PAST MONTH. AS AGAINST AVERAGE OF 32 SHIPS
IN PORT DURING JUNE, THERE HAS BEEN AVERAGE OF 42 SHIPS
AT JIDDA IN JULY, FORTY PERCENT OF THE SHIPS ARE OFF-
LOADING CEMENT OR LIME. TONNAGES NOT KNOWN BUT EARLIER
INFORMATION FROM A SAMPLING OF SIX CONSTRUCTION IMPORTERS
INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE FOUR MILLION TONS OF CEMENT
ON ORDER FOR 1977

2. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJOR U.S. SHIPPING
LINE SERVING JIDDA REPORTS THAT THE PORT IS APPROACHING
SERIOUS PROBLEM IN EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES, FORTY FORK-
LIFTS, 20 CRANES AND ABOUT 20 TRACTORS ARE OUT OF
ORDER AND UNUSABLE FOR LACK OF SPARE PARTS. SAUDI
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AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET SIGNED AND APPROVED REQUI-
SITION AND WORK ORDERS SUBMITTED OVER TWO MONTHS AGO.

3. WITH THE APPROACH OF RAMADAN SLOWDOWN, COMMENCING
AUGUST 15, 1977, THERE MAY BE SOME CLOGGING AND TURN-
AROUND DELAY AT JIDDA IN COMING MONTHS. HOWEVER,
EMBASSY DOES NOT FORESEE REPEAT OF SERIOUS SITUATION

EXISTING IN LATE 1975 AND THROUGH 1976. WAREHOUSES
IN JIDDA NOW BUGING WITH CONSUMER GOODS AND OTHER
MATERIAL.

4. INCREASE IN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF TRAFFIC WHICH IS NOW
ABOUT 45 PERCENT OF PORT TRAFFIC COMBINED WITH LARGER
VOLUME OF OVERLAND SHIPMENTS AND USE OF PORTS IN
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAVE DONE MUCH TO ALLEVIATE PORT
PROBLEM. STRINGENT REGULATIONS BY SAUDI PORT ADMINISTRA-
TION WHICH INVOLVE: AUCTION OF GOODS NOT CLEARED IN 15
DAYS, BAN ON OLD SHIPS, SR 1,500 DEPOSITS ON CONTAINERS,
AND DAILY CHARGES OF SR 75 IF NOT REMOVED IN TWO WEEKS
HAVE HELPED CLEAR THE PORT AS WELL AS THE HARBOR. THERE
ARE REPORTEDLY 2,000 CONTAINERS "LOST" IN JIDDA. PORT
AREA AND EMPTY LOTS NEARBY NOW SAID TO HAVE ABOUT 20,000
CONTAINERS. LACK OF OUTGOING CARGO AND USE OF CON-
TAINERS AS STORAGE VANS COMPUNDS PROBLEMS.

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Message Attributes

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